



ALIENS  
VERSUS  
PREDATOR  
YEAR  
4 OF 4

\$2.50 US  
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STANLEY

WEEK

HALLAM

NOB

# ALIENS

## V E R S U S

# PREDATOR

# WAR



6/8/93

# ALIENS VERSUS PREDATOR WAR



**RANDY STRADLEY, WRITER**  
**MARK B. HEIKE, PENCILLER**  
**RICARDO VILLAGRÁN, INKER**  
**STEVE DUTRO, LETTERER**  
**CHRIS CHALENOR, COLOR ARTIST**  
**RICHARD GORSEN, COVER ARTIST**

**BOB COOPER, EDITOR**

**SCOTT FUENTES AND MARK COX,**  
**BOOK DESIGN CONCEPT**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO GENEY ISHAI, TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX**  
**LICENSING AND MERCHANDISING**

**H.R. GIBER, ORIGINAL ALIEN DESIGN**

you are here



For a supposedly uninhabited world, the planet Bionix is becoming awfully crowded — what with Aliens, Predators, and a seemingly overmatched band of humans all scrambling for the upper hand. After the Predators attack the humans' floating survey platform, *Sig Arctus*, causing the platform to fall to the planet's surface, the Aliens appear, waiting to pounce on humans and Predators alike. As if that three-way battle wasn't enough, *Machiko Republic* arrives on the scene, along with one royally pissed-off Queen Alien, in her own inimitable fashion: by crash-landing the massive Predator mother ship in the middle of the battlefield. The scene is set. Tally for all-out WAR!



TO FORGET  
HOMER?

OH,  
FEAR  
THANKS

I GUESS  
I'D FORGOTTEN  
THAT FOR A WHILE...  
YOU DON'T KNOW  
HOW BAD IT IS  
TO SPEAK WITH  
PEOPLE AGAIN

LOOK, JET HOMER...  
YOU SAID YOU WERE  
HERE TO HELP. DO  
YOU MIND TELLING  
US EXACTLY WHAT'S  
GOING ON?



IT'S KIND OF A LONG  
STORY. LET'S JUST  
SAY I HEARD THAT  
PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET—  
ON *BAROON*—WERE  
IN TROUBLE.

I HAD TO CHOOSE  
WHICH ONE I WAS  
GOING TO BE ON—  
THE HUNTERS  
OR MELOD.



THE HUNTERS? YOU HEARD THE  
HUNTERS SAID  
WHO ATTACKED THE  
SURVEY PLATFORM?

YOU WERE  
WITH THEM? BUT  
THEY'RE NOT  
HUMAN, ARE  
THEY?

YES,  
FOR OVER A  
YEAR. AND  
NO, THEY'RE  
NOT...



I LEARNED  
THE HARD WAY  
THAT IT WAS A  
MISTAKE TO THINK  
A HUMAN BEING  
COULD ADAPT TO  
THEIR CULTURE.

NOW  
I'M LEARNING THAT  
NOW WAS A  
MISTAKE IT  
WAS.



LOOK, I HAVE  
GIVEN AN ENTRANCE.  
IT WON'T BE LONG  
BEFORE WE GET  
COMPANY.

ARE  
THERE ANY  
OTHER  
SURVIVORS? I  
HE'VE GOT TO  
ROUND THEM  
UP AND FIND  
SOME COVER.

MM...



YOU TWO AREN'T  
THE ONLY  
SURVIVORS  
ARE YOU?

THREE.  
THERE ARE  
THREE OF US.  
ACTUALLY,  
THERE MAY BE  
OTHERS, BUT...

I GUESS  
WE HAVE A  
"LONG STORY"  
ON OUR  
OWN.

IN KATE LARA  
TWO IS MARTIN JESS,  
THE THIRD MEMBER  
OF OUR GROUP  
IS BRIAN.

ELLIS HE CAN  
SEE A BIT AND  
TALK... TO GET  
HIMSELF KILLED  
HERE AS I CAN  
TELL.

AS FOR ANY OTHERS  
HE CAN A GUN, A  
COFFER, AND A SHOTLE  
BUT JESS KNOWS THE  
PLANET AND SO  
HERE THEY ALL GO  
TO SAFETY.

...BUT  
I HAVE  
NOT.

HE'S HAD  
BEHIND THE  
STATION'S  
SUPERVISOR  
HAD TO  
ARRANGE  
ON COMPANY  
ORDERS.

TELL  
HER  
HAY!

THERE ARE  
THREE CAPTURED  
ALIENS... HORRIBLE  
THING. THEY CAN ADAPT  
TO ANY ENVIRONMENT  
AND THEY'VE BEEN  
DISPERSED ALL OVER  
THE COLONIES.

JESS, ELLIS, AND  
I WERE PART OF AN  
EXTERMINATION TEAM  
THAT WAS SENT TO A  
SPACE STATION TO Wipe  
OUT AN INFESTATION  
WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW  
WAS THAT THE STATION  
HAD BEEN INFESTED  
BY THE COMPANY.

ON PURPOSE  
THEY WANTED TO SEE  
HOW LONG IT WOULD  
TAKE THE ALIENS TO  
KILL FOUR HUNDRED  
INNOCENT PEOPLE...  
MEN, WOMEN, AND  
CHILDREN.

SOME OF THE  
HIGHER-UPS DON'T  
APPROPRIATE THE FACT  
THAT WE BLAY THESE  
DATA TO ATONE  
ALONG WITH THE  
STATION AND  
THE...

-- Brian --

JESS IS  
KNOW ALL ABOUT  
BRIAN. HE HAS  
MORE IN COMMON  
THAN YOU  
KNOW.

"THERE ARE BUGS  
ON THIS PLANET."

"THERE WAS EVEN A  
SECOND BUG ON  
BOARD MY SHIP."

"... BUT I DON'T THINK  
ONE COULD HAVE  
SURVIVED THAT  
LANDING."

"THE HUNTERS SEND  
WOLF PACKS WITH  
THE BUGS AND HUNT  
THEM NOW SOON."











NEW  
HARDER TO  
TELL RIGHT  
ABOUT ONE  
THING:  
LADY...

...IT'S  
EXPLAINING

AH, BUT  
I SUPPLY  
THE...

EXACTLY HE KNOWS WHAT  
I'VE DONE. I'VE BROKEN THE  
CODE. I'M NOT JUST AN OUT-  
SIDER TO THE CLAN...

I'M THE CLAN'S  
MOST ENEMY...



I WAS ALREADY  
THE QUEEN'S...











and when you're all getting home

ERROR!

LARA, GET BACK!

SHARON!

POOF

HISS



**SAFFEE**



DON'T ASK ME  
TO LOSE MYSELF.  
ALL I CAN DO IS  
KEEP THE SUIT  
UNDER CONTROL.

IF YOU ARE  
A PERSONAL SUBJECT  
YOU MUST BE IN  
THE COURT. NO  
EXEMPTIONS.

10

JUST  
BLISS THIS  
SUNSHINE-XTA-TO  
CONFESS BUSINESS  
IS GETTIN' TO BE  
A THING WITH  
YOU

19

WHEN  
 IT'S BETTER  
 DON'T HOLD  
 YOUR BREATH  
 THIS TIME



THE NEW  
MAGAZINE

ONLY ONE PLACE TO GO



... IF HE  
WANT TO GET  
OFF THIS PLANET,  
FOLLOW ME.

"I'M WARNING YOU, THOUGH--  
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY.  
THE HUNTERS MAKE IT IN FOR  
ME NOW. THEY WANT MY BLOOD."



"THE GOOD THING  
IS, THEY'LL PLAY BY  
HUMAN RULES--BUT  
THEY'VE SPENT THE  
LAST YEAR ON NO  
TEACHING ME."



"THERE THERE'S THE HAMA BIRD  
AND HER BROTHER. SHE AND I  
HAVE A HISTORY. AND IS ANY-  
THING SHE WANTS ME WORSE  
THAN ROMANOV AND HIS TROOPS."

"AND SHE WON'T PLAY  
BY ANY RULES THAT  
HE EVEN UNDERSTAND."



"ON TOP OF EVERYTHING  
ELSE, I HAVE NO IDEA  
WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS  
MAY BE NATIVE TO THIS  
WORLD."







WHAT  
IS IT  
JESS?

WORRY  
ABOUT THAT  
BEFORE IT'S  
TOO LATE!



DO  
NOT  
BOOBY  
BACON!

NOISES!



AND DRIBBLES!

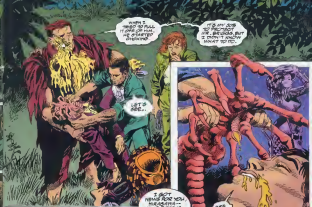
SO, NIKOLAI,  
HOW'D AN  
ARMORER  
WOULD'VE FIGURED  
THE WAY YOU  
HANDLED ME

PLEASE,  
HELP ME  
-  
BACON



OH, MY  
GOD, HE'S  
BEEN KILLED  
-  
BACON





WHEN I  
NEED TO PULL  
IT OFF, OR HULL  
WE'LL BEAT  
EVERYONE.

IT'S MY JOB  
TO PROTECT  
IT'S... BUT I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO.

LET'S  
GO...

I DON'T  
KNOW HOW YOU  
KNOW--  
YOUR BOND IS  
BEYOND HELP.

YES...



AND AS  
FOR AS I'M  
CONCERNED  
IT COULDN'T  
HAPPEN TO A  
BETTER  
GUY.

YES...

YES...

ABOUT  
THIS  
LATER  
CHUCK.

I THINK  
IT'S TIME  
WE SPLIT  
UP.

THANKS  
FOR THE  
INFO--  
IT'S TOO LATE TO  
HELP YOUR MASTER  
BUT IF THERE'S  
ANY PART OF YOUR  
PROGRAMMING  
THAT UNDOES YOUR  
REVERSE...

SHING





CLASSIC MOVIE, SHORTY  
FIRE, PECKLES ATTACKS  
I'M SUPPOSED TO TRY TO  
BLOCK THE FIRST ATTACK  
AND BE CAUGHT BY THE SECOND.

I DO  
JUST THE  
OPPOSITE.

A YEAR AGO I  
WOULDN'T HAVE  
KNOWN THAT  
PECKLES  
WAS THE  
HUNTER  
SQUAD OF  
A SQUAD OF  
TERRORS.

THE KNOWLEDGE  
GIVES ME A  
FEELING  
OF  
SATISFACTION

BLAM  
BLAM



IT'S JUST  
HEN AND HIS.  
SECURITY.  
FOR THE  
LAST TIME.

WE'D  
BETTER  
GO.

NO  
ARMAMENT  
HERE...GIVE  
ME A  
HAND.



WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
DOING?  
YOU  
CAN'T  
HANDLE  
THAT  
THING.  
HE  
WAS  
BEYOND  
HELP.

WE  
CAN'T  
HELP  
HIM.  
BUT  
MAYBE  
HE  
CAN  
HELP  
US.  
I'LL  
EXPLAIN  
WHEN  
WE  
GET  
AWAY  
FROM  
HERE.



SECURITY

AAA!



WHAT'S THE MATTER, SHORTY?

NOT SO TALKIN' WITHOUT SOMEBODY TO BACK YOU UP? YOU'RE NOT A HUNTER, YOU'RE JUST A BULLY.

KAK

UHH



I'M MORE OF A HUNTER THAN YOU.

SLAM



AS MUCH AS I HATE, I ADMIRE YOU.

I KNOW YOU COULD UNDERSTAND ME, GOOD.

I MAY BE HUMAN, BUT I'M ALSO A HUNTER. AND EVEN THOUGH THE HUMAN SIDE OF ME SAYS IT'S WRONG TO KILL YOU...









...SCHEDULE  
A HADN'T  
BEEN SET





ere we go again, with your mail about our most recent *Aliens vs. Predator* series.

Eric Mancla  
2153 Danvers Dr  
Orlando, FL 32808

I would like to discuss the beauty of *Aliens vs. Predator: War* fan artwork that is far better than your earlier *Aliens vs. Predator* series. The story makes *A. V. P.* look like *The Three Little Pigs*! *Aliens vs. Predator: War* has also brought back my confidence in your company. Another lowered it, almost making you lose a customer. I have one request and two questions before I close this letter. 1) Could you possibly bring back Mark Verheiden and Mark A. Nelson for our comic. 2) Would you find out if or when the *Aliens vs. Predator* movie comes out, and 3) Would you make a comic called *Aliens: Takeover*, or *Aliens: Revenge*? My friend Sam and I thought up those names.

Your guys blow me away!

In answer to your request and questions: 1) As you may or may not be aware, Mark Verheiden has been working down in Hollywood for the past several years, laboring away on the stories and screenplays for such blockbuster movies as *The Matrix* and *Twister*, and as such hasn't had a whole lot of time for comics writing. The good news is, he's just starting work on the script for a follow-up to the popular *Predator: Cold War* series of several years back, featuring Dutch Schaeffer's brother, Schaeff, the series, tentatively titled *Predator: Dark River*, will be out sometime in 1996 as far as Mark Nelson, he's a big fan of his work as well, and would love to get him involved with one of our upcoming Dark Horse projects. In the meantime, I trust you've all catching his excellent monthly how-to columns, "From Panels to Ink," in *Hero Illustrated*; 2) The movie talked about *Aliens vs. Predator* movie is in what Hollywood insiders call "turn-around," which loosely translated means a treatment for the megamovie concept was produced, but not approved, and now the

project is once more in limbo; we here at Dark Horse are just as anxious to see this happen as all of you are, but the ultimate decision to do this movie rests with Twentieth Century Fox; 3) Some interesting titles, but we'd need a better reason than that.



David Cummings  
909 Lake Nora N. Ct., Apt. C  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

I want more *Aliens/Predator* series going deep into the mythos of these two interesting and dangerous species. *Predators* hunting *Aliens* on planets that we haven't seen, and better yet *Predators* hunting alien species that we haven't seen or heard of. It would be interesting to see some of the alien species whose skulls were hanging on the trophy wall in the ship on *Predator 2*. I hope you will consider these things and keep making the best comics the world has ever seen.

Check out the response to Jeremiah's letter below, David.



Jeremiah D. Oxford  
1180 Crocker Street  
Coos Bay, OR 97422

This is the first time I have ever written to any comic because I never had a reason to until now. I'm sorry to say that the reason is a negative one.

I just got through reading the first two issues of *Aliens vs. Predator: War* and the art was great, but the story upset me. As an *Aliens* fan, I always like to go with the *Aliens*. I was expecting a good equal match with plenty of laughter on both sides. The way you didn't let off the *Aliens* or *Predator* fan. But you deeply disappointed me as an *Aliens* fan. You made the *Aliens* look pathetic and scared. For example, all that I saw nowadays are big tough hordes blowing the *Aliens* away. Am I supposed to think that the naïve *Aliens* scary? What happened to the mysterious, fascinating creature that I enjoyed watching watch its victims from the darkness. I was inspired at the scenes where they show the *Alien Queen* all tied up and functioning as nothing more than an egg-laying machine aboard the *Predator* ship. I don't think the *Predators* are that tough compared to the *Aliens*. I am sick of seeing *Predators* killing *Aliens* for sport. These comic books are obvi-

# FRESH

ously meant for *Predator* fans only. Why make the *Predators* the good guys? They are supposed to be as bad as the *Aliens*. Sure I don't get to see a good, equal battle and rarely get to see a *Predator* killed by an *Alien*. I am going to quit buying your *Aliens vs. Predator: War* comics. I will also encourage my *Alien* fan friends to quit buying them since the comic is not suitable for the *Alien* fan.

You have lost a loyal fan who used to be crazy about your *Aliens* comics. If I don't see the original terror of the *Alien* brought back, I will just have to stop buying your *Aliens* comics. I wonder how H. R. Giger feels seeing his creation reduced to a footnoted with sharp teeth. The art is great — at least you can keep up a good job with that. I hope you read all of this even if you don't print it, because it is a major concern to me and other *Aliens* fans. Especially since I keep on spending my money on your stuff hoping it will be good.

Writer Randy Stradley responds: First of all, Jeremiah, I guess I'd have to admit that, to a certain extent, the *Predators* in this story are the "good guys" (at least until they become the "bad guys"), but that's primarily a function of the story being told from Hachiko Naguchi's point of view. She's been able to connect with the *Predators* in a way that, while not entirely satisfying from a human perspective, is certainly more significant (and much, much sicker) than trying to connect with the *Aliens*. The *Aliens* are just that — alien. They're unknowable, implacable, and deadly... at all times. At least the *Predators* have a code of honor and behavior that humans can (sometimes) understand. However, when all is said and done, I think you'll discover the body count on both sides is pretty equal, and that while the *Predators*' technology and

weaponry sometimes gives them the edge, the Aliens still have the advantage of stealth, unpredictability, and single-mindedness. Maybe it seems like I'm playing favorites with the Predators, but it wouldn't be much of a story if both sides were always evenly matched in every scene. I'm sorry to see you drop the series (especially because you missed the part in Issue #3 where the captive Queen gets revenge on her Predator captor!).

He again: In addition to these points, rest assured that no one would like to expand the scope of our Aliens and Predator stories more than I, but we're constrained to a certain extent with

maintaining continuity not only with past Aliens and Predator movies, but with yet-to-come movies as well. Fox wouldn't necessarily want us to spill the beans about too many hitherto unknown Aliens or Predator secrets before it has a chance to in an upcoming movie. But don't worry... sooner or later, in either our comics or Fox's movies, you're going to find out everything you always wanted to know about these haunted



One's again, for those of you with access to any of the major on-line services, you can reach us by sending e-mail to the following addresses (be sure that your mail

includes "Fresh Tracks" in the header):

Internet: [DMC@bulletproof.com](mailto:DMC@bulletproof.com)  
CompuServe: 73485,1001  
America OnLine: [DMCComics@aol.com](mailto:DMCComics@aol.com)

I do read every last piece of mail I receive, but time constraints unfortunately don't allow me to respond to each letter individually. Your opinions do count. And as a hint for aspiring letterhackers: I enjoy letters that contain articulate and well-reasoned critiques of our comics, even if negative, more than just general praise for a job well done. These are the kinds of letters that stand the best chance of getting published (see in point Jeremiah's letter above).

— Bob Cooper

## CORBEN COVER GALLERY



As a final treat for fans of this series, we felt it incumbent to present Richard Corben's beautiful set of five covers in their unspotted, original glory — without logos or cover text. Richard added all of the color and special effects to his new black-and-white cover art using his computer, which allowed him to produce some amazing textural effects that a simple brush and paint wouldn't allow. And these five covers were just intended to whet your appetite, as Richard will be collaborating with pal Jan Strnad on an upcoming four-issue Aliens series due sometime in 1990!